WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTION

Threat of Global Warming

*401. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has geared up to meet acute water shortage in view of the threat of global warming;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (c) Realising the need for proper assessment of the effect of climate change on water resources and flow characteristics, studies have been taken up by Central Water Commission, Brahmaputra Board and National Institute of Hyderology with active participation of reputed academic institutes. The study is being coordinated by Central Water Commission. The objective of the study is to examine the effect of climate change on water resources with a view to (a) assess the extent of likely changes in the water availability and the flow characteristics, (b) evaluate the effect of such changes on the performance of the water resources system, and (c) to identify appropriate measures to address the effect of climate change on water resources.

With a view to mitigate the effect of possible changes in flow characteristics and ensure optimal utilization of available water resources, various measures for conservation of water, including creation of storages, traditional water conservation practices, rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water are taken up by the respective State Governments. The interlinking of rivers project also aims at optimal utilisation of surplus flood water. The National Water Policy envisaged that efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimised, an awareness of water as a scare resource be fostered, the water resources be conserved and the availability augmented.

Fresh guidelines for recruitment of loan recovery agents

*406. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
DR (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued fresh guidelines to be followed by the private banks for recruitment of loan recovery agents;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and whether these guidelines are drafted in consultation with the private banks;

(c) how the antecedents of recovery agents are being verified by the Banks;

(d) what role the State police plays in this regard; and

(e) how the fresh guidelines are different from the old guidelines?